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YUKIHITO

BANANA ICE

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ACME司 PRESENTS:

15: MEISETSU KOUGYOU KOUKOU RUGBY BU

BY NARUSE SHIKI

CHAPTER 12

RAWS: BANANA_ICE_OLJ

TRANSLATOR: BUTTON

PROOFER: REZONVILLE

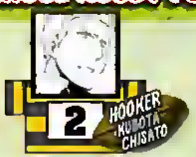
TYPESETTER: KANA

INTRODUCING THE POSITIONS OF THE MEISETSU TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

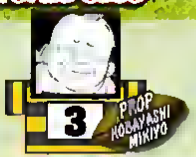
FORWARD

FRONT ROW

1 PROP WATASE JUN



2 HOOKER KUBOTA CHISATO



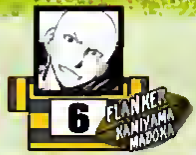
3 PROP KOBAYASHI MIKIYO

SECOND ROW

4 LOCK HONTOKU MOE

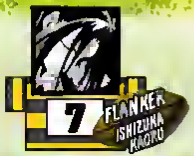
5 LOCK NAKAMURA KOMUGI

THIRD ROW



6 FLANKER KANIYAMA MADOKA

8 NUMBER 8 YAMAJI AYUMU



7 FLANKER ISHIZUKA AKORO

BACKS

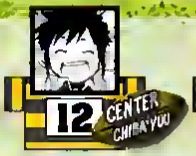
HALF BACK

9 SCRUM-HALF NAGASE HIROMI

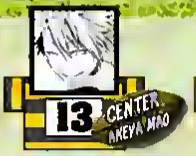
10 FLY-HALF SAKAI MAKOTO

THREE-QUARTER BACK

11 WINGER EJIMA YUI



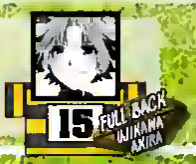
12 CENTER CHIBA YUU



13 CENTER AKEYA MAO

14 WINGER SANO MEGUMI

FULL BACK



15 FULL BACK IIJIMA AKIRA

THE MEISETSU FIFTEEN STARTING LINE-UP

No.1 PROP
WATABE JUN
(SECOND YEAR)

No.2 HOOKER
KUBOTA CHISATO
(THIRD YEAR)

No.3 PROP
KOBAYASHI MIKIYO
(THIRD YEAR)

No.4 LOCK
HONTOKU MOE
(THIRD YEAR)

No.5 LOCK
NAKAMURA KOMUGI
(THIRD YEAR)

No.6 FLANKER
KAMIYAMA MADOKA
(SECOND YEAR)

No.7 FLANKER
ISHIZUKA KAORU
(SECOND YEAR)

No.8 NUMBER 8
YAMADA AYUMU
(THIRD YEAR)

No.9 SCRUM-HALF
NAGASE HIROMI
(THIRD YEAR)

No.10 FLY-HALF
SAKAI MAKOTO
(THIRD YEAR)

No.11 WINGER
EBINA YUI
(SECOND YEAR)

No.12 CENTER
CHIBA YUU
(FIRST YEAR)

No.13 CENTER
AKEYA MAO
(SECOND YEAR)

No.14 WINGER
SANO MEGUMI
(FIRST YEAR)

No.15 FULL BACK
UJIKAWA AKIRA
(FIRST YEAR)

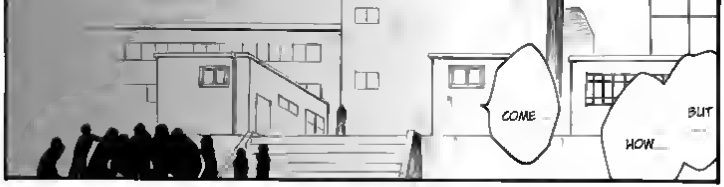
THE GUYS WHO HAVE BEEN BEATEN ARE BACK OUT ON THE FIELD...

Volumes 1 • 2 are on sale, not to mention with great reviews!

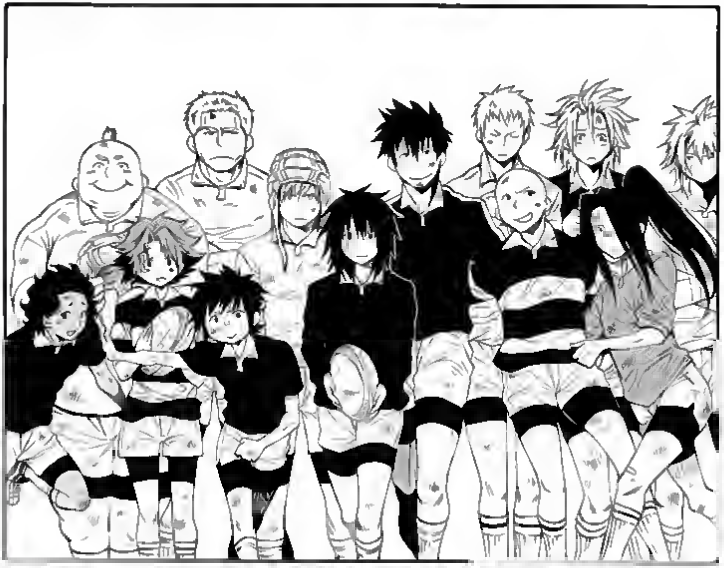
Chapter 12: Team

Naruse Yoshiki

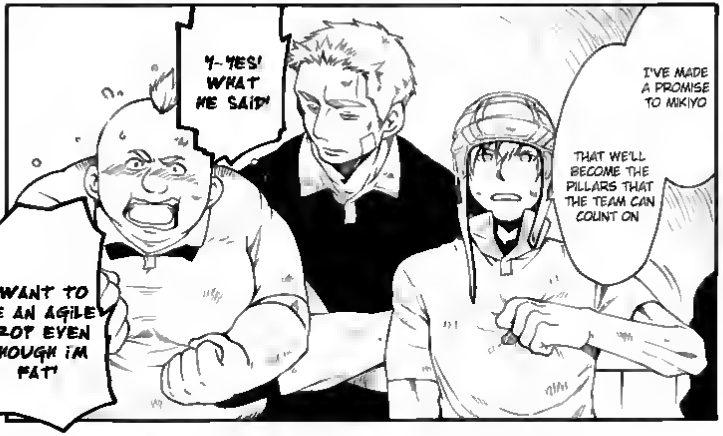
...Yui-sempai.
FIFTEEN
Shinsei Technical High School Rugby Football Club


COME
BUT
HOW...

Over here!
Gather around!
OF YOU
HERE?
WHY
ARE ALL



STARTING FROM ME, HUH
GOING BY OUR NUMBERS, LET'S TELL HIM WHY WE'RE HERE!
OKAY, JUN!

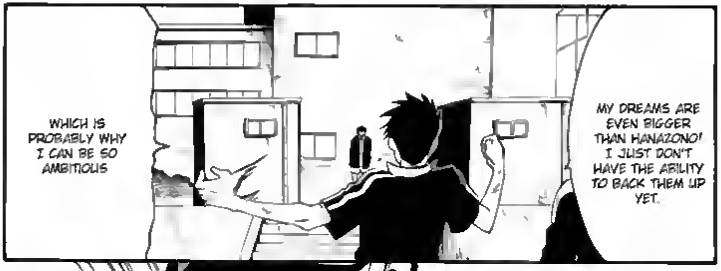

Y-YES! WHAT HE SAID!
I'VE MADE A PROMISE TO MIKIYO
THAT WE'LL BECOME THE PILLARS THAT THE TEAM CAN COUNT ON
I WANT TO BE AN AGILE PROP EVEN THOUGH I'M FAT!

EVEN IF SOMEONE NOTICES SOMETHING, HE JUST KEEPS QUIET
IT SEEMS THAT THERE'S A SEVERE LACK OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN US
WELL, MY AIM HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO BECOME STRONGER.
WHICH IS WHY... HOW SHOULD I SAY IT...
SO NOTHING'S CHANGED HOWEVER.

W-W-Well, I hate losing, so....
I want to make more memories of us winning!
Me, hear me out!
SEEING AS
HOW I'M BAD WITH PRACTICALLY EVERYTHING ELSE,
FROM NOW ON, AS ONE OF THE OLDEST AROUND HERE,
I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU CAN ALL SAY WHAT YOU NEED TO.
Hey, Captain!
I SEE.
Don't you forget it!
I WANT TO FOCUS ALL MY ENERGIES TOWARDS
PLAYING RUGBY!
I FEEL THE SAME WAY. I...
I'VE QUIT MY BAND!
TOOK A BREAK
YES, I'VE TAKEN A BREAK FROM THE BAND,
SO THAT I COULD DEVOTE ALL MY TIME TO PLAYING RUGBY!

I FEEL LIKE, WHEN I'M WITH YOU GUYS...
...I'M REALIZING THINGS ABOUT MYSELF THAT I DIDN'T KNOW.
I DON'T WANT TO BE THE ONE HOLDING YOU GUYS BACK.
WELL, FOR ME,
TO BE MORE CONFIDENT IN FACING THE ENEMY.
I WANT TO BE A REAL PART OF THE TEAM,
OKAY!
HIROMI, YOU'RE NEXT!
WELL,
I DON'T WANT US TO BE THE LOSERS!
I WANT US TO BE AN EXCELLENT TEAM, JUST LIKE TAKASE!
AND WHEN WE FINALLY TAKE ON TAKASE AGAIN AT THE PREFECTURE PRELIMINARIES

Uhhhh...
AND THAT I SHOULD JUST AIM FOR HANAZONO, BUT...
Y-YUI, YOU MIGHT BE THINKING THAT I'M AN IDIOT...
THE KIND THAT GETS A CENTERFOLD IN MAGAZINES!
SAME GOES FOR ME
ALSO, I WANT TO BE A REALLY POPULAR AND AWESOME PLAYER!

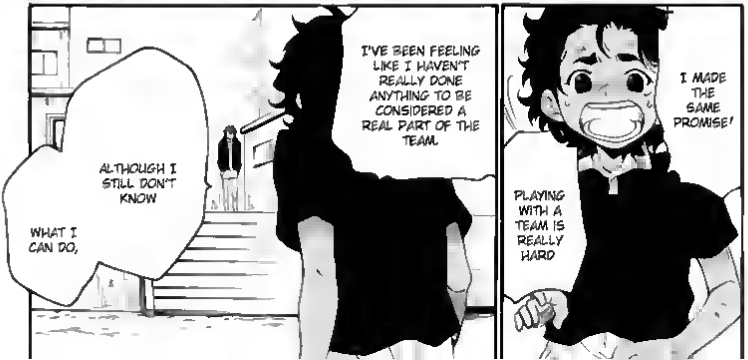

WHICH IS PROBABLY WHY I CAN BE SO AMBITIOUS
MY DREAMS ARE EVEN BIGGER THAN HANAZONO! I JUST DON'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO BACK THEM UP YET.

I'M GOING DO IT ONE STEP AT A TIME!
EVEN SO, I DIDN'T LEAVE HANAZONO OUT IN MY PLANS.
I KNOW HOW IMPORTA NT IT IS.
WHICH IS WHY,
JUST YOU WAIT!

whatever training you give me!
I don't want to lose again, so I'll endure
I want to be stronger as well!
Strong enough to beat guys who're bigger than me!
HEY, ROOKIES, YOUR TURN!
Y-YES!

Sta: shouts

THAT'S WHAT I PROMISED MEGU AND AKI!
I WILL BECOME STRONGER!


I'VE BEEN FEELING LIKE I HAVEN'T REALLY DONE ANYTHING TO BE CONSIDERED A REAL PART OF THE TEAM.
ALTHOUGH I STILL DON'T KNOW
WHAT I CAN DO,
I MADE THE SAME PROMISE!
PLAYING WITH A TEAM IS REALLY HARD

I want us to relive
that euphoric moment when we beat Yurioka!
WHICH IS WHY... I WANT TO... BE A USEFUL MEMBER OF THE TEAM...
RUBS
SNIFF
EMBRACES
FOR ME,

IT WAS ALWAYS MY DREAM
TO PLAY IN A TEAM.
THEY SAY
THAT I'M REALLY GOOD AT KICKING.
BUT
MORE THAN
ANYTHING ELSE
IT'S BECAUSE I LOVE
ALL OF YOU.
I love
Playing Rugby.

WINNING IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS LOSING.
AND NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS I WILL NEVER HATE PLAYING RUGBY.
Trust us.
AND I BELIEVE THAT'S THE SAME FOR ALL OF US
Believe that we're not downhearted.
Believe that we like playing rugby.
Which is why we're all here.
Smiles

AKI
RA
I LIKE PLAYING TOO...
ME TOO
Forget about me!
Just give up on me!
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T FEEL CONFIDENT...
AND I'M NOT SURE IF I CAN DO IT...
I STILL DON'T WANT TO QUIT.

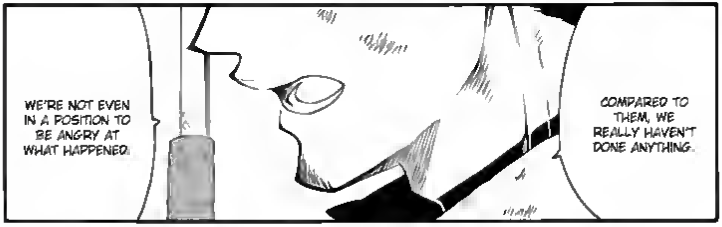
I...
THIS SPORT THAT FATHER TAUGHT ME...
I LOVE IT
IT'S JUST

I really love playing it.

Heartbeat

Ahem
WE WERE ALL GATHERED HERE TODAY BY ACCIDENT
JUST TRYING TO TALK TOGETHER.
ONE THING WE ALL HAVE IN COMMON IS OUR LOVE OF PLAYING RUGBY
AND ANOTHER THING...
WE'RE ALL FRUSTRATED, THINKING ABOUT THE THE MISTAKES WE'VE MADE
I KNOW HOW MUCH IT HURT TO LOSE TO TAKAESE.
PLUS YOU GUYS ALL HAD TO SEE MY ASS... THAT WAS PRETTY EMBARRASSING.
YEAH, THAT WAS A NICE VIEW OF YOUR ASS
Shut up, Hiromi!
BUT WHAT HURTS MORE THAN THAT
IS THE FACT THAT WE WEREN'T TAKING IT SERIOUSLY ENOUGH.
UP UNTIL NOW. WE-

-Unlike Takase, who were really dying to get into Hanazono-
-we weren't even trying.
We couldn't have matched up to them.


COMPARED TO THEM, WE REALLY HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING.
WE'RE NOT EVEN IN A POSITION TO BE ANGRY AT WHAT HAPPENED.

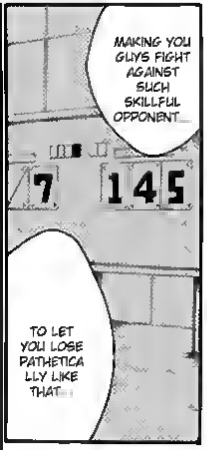
I CAN'T FORGIVE MYSELF THAT, AFTER ALL THAT TIME
WE WEREN'T TAKING RUGBY SERIOUSLY.
AND WE WEREN'T LISTENING TO YOUR STRICT ORDERS TO GET STRONGER
SO WE'D BE ABLE TO GO TO HANAZONO
CLENCH

WE REALLY
ARE SORRY FOR WHAT WE DID!

I...
BUT...
AH...
..

DESPITE ALL THAT, YOU GUYS STILL WANT TO GO TO HANAZONO...
EVEN THOUGH... I WAS BEING SO ARROGANT...
I SHOULD BE THE ONE APOLOGIZING...
HOW MANY TIMES DID I MAKE DECISIONS WITHOUT ASKING YOU GUYS? OR FORCE YOU TO DO THINGS? TIMES THAT I DIDN'T LISTEN TO YOU?

BUT... I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU GUYS...
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD ALL HATE RUGBY AFTER THAT...
THAT YOU WOULD WANT TO QUIT PLAYING...


MAKING YOU GUYS FIGHT AGAINST SUCH SKILLFUL OPPONENT...
7
145
TO LET YOU LOSE PATHETICALLY LIKE THAT...

PRACTICING SO HARD...
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D FIND YOU GUYS HERE
Even though I know that you guys like playing rugby...
I couldn't even believe in you as my friends!
WHY DID I NOT BELIEVE IN YOU MORE?
I'm so ashamed of myself...
I know how big of a fool I really am...
Which is why...
I SHOULD BE THE ONE APOLOGIZING TO YOU, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

I'M
REALLY
SORRY!

I HOPE YOU GUYS
CAN FORGIVE ME...
Waaah!
Alright!
Finally, the great tactician Yui-dono, has come back to us!
Let's keep practicing!
AIM FOR HANAZONO!
YEAH!!
YES
We'll be the champions of the prefecture!
When will you stop crying?
AH
BETTER TAKE A PICTURE SINCE IT'S RARE TO SEE YUI-CHAN CRYING!
WELL...
YOU SEE...

I'M SO HAPPY TO HEAR THOSE WORDS FROM YOU GUYS...
THAT YOU WANT TO WIN...
THAT YOU WANT TO GET STRONGER...
THAT YOU WANT TO GO TO HANAZONO...

Turns Around
RIGHT. THERE'S A LOT WE'RE LACKING RIGHT NOW.
NOT TO MENTION
THAT WE'RE LETTING THE TALENT OF AN AMAZING PLAYER GO TO WASTE.
W-Words aren't enough! It's only actions which really matter!
WE ALL NEED TO WORK HARD!
FLASH
Yeah! You were great back at the match with Takase, Akira!
Going from an intercept in the scrum.
AVOIDING THE BACKS!
AND SCORING A TRY!
EVEN THAT KICK...
YOU'RE QUITE POPULAR NOW IN THE PREFECTURE

I WAS SO ABSORBED IN THINKING ABOUT THAT
THAT I JUST DID...
I WAS THINKING ABOUT WHAT I COULD DO FOR THE TEAM,
HOW I COULD POSSIBLY SCORE...
WELL... YOU SEE...
UMM...
Like what great athletes have...
MAYBE THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL AS "SENSE OF RUGBY"?
EVEN IF IT WAS PURELY INSTINCTIVE,
IT STILL WORKED
I THINK SO TOO! SO, I HAVE A SUGGESTION
I-I EVEN ACTED SO CONCEITED TOWARDS YUI-SENPAI...
I COULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT I HAD DONE BACK THEN...
THEN THAT COUNTERATTACK WOULDN'T HAVE ENDED WITH JUST A SINGLE GOAL
AKI-CHAN, I WAS THINKING THAT IF WE HAD BEEN ABLE TO SUPPORT YOU BETTER,

Huh?
This might sound arrogant coming from someone who's done nothing,
But if we can make better use of you and your skills, you'll be able to score more.
We have to bring Akira's strength out!
Be the key player in the game!
We may have been lacking in abilities
But from now on, each of us will get stronger.
And one day...
You can be sure that all of us
Will deserve to be called your teammates!

YOU!
GUYS
Touched!
LET'S DECIDE ON THE SIGNS WE'LL USE!
AKI-CHAN, COME AND JOIN THE INTERCEPTING PRACTICE!
BACKS AND NUMBER EIGHT, COME HERE!
DON'T YOU BACK DOWN ON TEACHING ME HOW TO KICK!
IF I CAN LEARN THAT KICK CONTROL OF YOURS, I'LL BE INVINCIBLE!
LEAVE THE TACKLING TO ME!
IF YOU GET STOPPED, I'LL BE SURE TO SUPPORT YOU!
DON'T FORGET ME!
WHENEVER YOU NEED IT.
PAT
YEAH!
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO COUNT ON US, AKIRA.

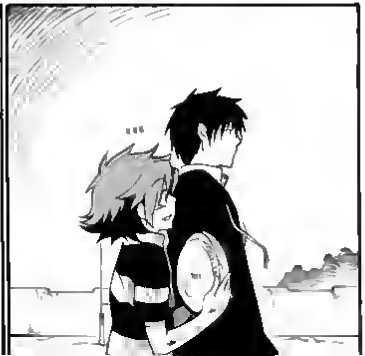
If I can learn that kick control of yours, I'll be invincible!

WOW.....

That's more than enough time!
Let's do our best with the time we have left!
ALRIGHT!

LISTEN EVERYONE! DIVIDE INTO FORWARDS AND BACKS AND WE'LL HAVE A PRACTICE MATCH

YOU ASKED ME
WHY DIDN'T I TRUST YOU GUYS BACK THEN


...

AH-!
I WAS SURPRISED YOU WERE LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON DURING THE MATCH AGAINST TAKASE.
BUT I THINK THAT'S A VERY IMPORTANT SKILL.
Okay, then—the Backs!
Hey, the ball!
ONE PERSON BEING ABLE TO CHANGE THE MINDSET OF AN ENTIRE TEAM LIKE THAT.
I BELIEVE THERE HAS TO BE A HERO WHO CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING.
THE STRONG TEAM WILL ALWAYS BE STRONG,
THE WEAK TEAM WILL ALWAYS BE WEAK
ONE MEMBER BEING ABLE TO CHANGE THE WHOLE TEAM AND BRING ABOUT SURPRISING RESULTS - IT'S ALMOST LIKE A DREAM
EVEN SO, I STILL WANT TO BELIEVE

AND THE CLOSEST THING TO A HERO WOULD BE
YOU AKIRA.
AT LEAST, I THINK SO.
THAT'S THE REASON WHY,
RIGHT NOW, EVERYONE'S DOING THEIR BEST FOR YOU.

Remember, we'll all be There to help!
You can be sure that all of us will be worthy.

THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL
FRIENDSHIP, RIGHT?

I NEVER IMAGINED
THAT BEING A TEAM
WOULD MAKE ME FEEL
SO BIG,
SO WARM AND SO STRONG!
YEAH.

Towards a better horizon

To be continued in AUGUST